

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-29, 31-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44, 45, 49 and 50 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 6-10, 15, 16, 22, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 50 are amended, and claims 3, 35, 39, 43, 46-48 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. These amendments do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the original disclosure. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 50 was objected to because informalities. Claim 50 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 49.

Claims 1, 19-21, 23-29, 34, 38, 42, 46, 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,701 to Yellin.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the following.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 3-10, 15, 16, 22, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claims 11-14, 17, 18 31-33, 37, 41 and 45 are allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3.

Allowable claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 35.

Claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 39.

Claim 42 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 43.

All of the remaining dependent claims depend from or have been amended to depend from one of the above independent claims.

For at least the above reason, the remaining pending claims are now allowed or allowable.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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